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PAGE 01 STATE 029668
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /013 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/NE:CWSCHALLER/LD
APPROVED BY EUR/NE:JJCROWLEY, JR.
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, NL

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS COUNTRY PAPER FOR NETHERLANDS

1. EUR/NE HAS BEEN ASKED TO UPDATE BY FEBRUARY 18 COUNTRY PAPER ON NETHERLANDS PREPARED LAST MARCH. BRIEF UNCLASSIFIED PAPER (2-3 PAGES) IS FOR USE BY DEPARTMENT'S SENIOR ADVISOR ON INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS MATTERS AND BY OTHER USG OFFICIALS AS BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS AND INQUIRIES FROM CONGRESSMEN AND PUBLIC. IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FULL UPDATE IN TIMELY FASHION, EUR/NE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S SUGGESTIONS BY PRIORITY CABLE FOR CHANGES IN CURRENT PAPER, TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS.

2. A. ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFIC. NETHERLANDS BECAME A SERIOUS PROBLEM AREA FOR NARCOTICS CONTROL ONLY IN LATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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1972, ALTHOUGH CANNABIS PRODUCTS AND AMPHETAMINES WERE ALWAYS OBTAINABLE ON BLACK MARKET BY PERSONS VISITING AMSTERDAM AND SEVERAL OTHER DUTCH CITIES. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF ILLICIT PROCESSING OF NARCOTICS IN NETHERLANDS, BUT EVIDENCE DEVELOPED OF TRANSHIPMENTS THROUGH THAT COUNTRY. AMSTERDAM AND ROTTERDAM ARE SIGNIFICANT ENTRY POINTS FOR NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS INTO

EUROPE, PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF LARGE NUMBER OF SHIPS
PASSING THROUGH THOSE PORTS. OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO US

MILITARY COMMAND IN GERMANY HAS BEEN USE OF NETHERLANDS
AS TRANSHIPMENT POINT FOR CANNABIS PRODUCTS AND AMPHETA-
MINES REACHING US MILITARY FORCES IN GERMANY.

3. B. DRUG CONTROL EFFORTS. COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS
WORKED OUT BETWEEN DUTCH, GERMAN AND US AUTHORITIES TO
DEAL WITH DANGEROUS DRUGS TRANSITING NETHERLANDS AND
DESTINED FOR US FORCES IN GERMANY. BELGIUM PASSED TOUGH
NEW LEGISLATION IN 1975 AIMED AT DRUG TRAFFICKING,
PARTICULARLY ACROSS THE OPEN BORDER BETWEEN BELGIUM AND
THE NETHERLANDS. WHILE DUTCH HAVE BEEN TOLERANT OF
INDIVIDUAL USE OF CANNABIS PRODUCTS AND AMPHETAMINES,
TOLERANCE DOES NOT APPLY TO TRAFFICKING IN HARD DRUGS,
THOUGH PENALTIES CONSIDERED INADEQUATE. DUTCH PARLIA-
MENT IN 1976 PASSED LEGISLATION REDUCING PENALTY FOR
POSSESSION AND CONSUMPTION OF DRUGS AND NARCOTICS BUT
SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASING PENALTIES FOR TRAFFICKING IN
HARD DRUGS. IN FALL OF 1975, DUTCH CREATED SPECIAL
COUNTRY-WIDE NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT UNIT AS PART OF
REVAMPING OF ITS DRUG CONTROL MACHINERY. PARTICULAR
EMPHASIS HAS BEEN PLACED ON IMPROVED COOPERATION AND
COORDINATION WITH LOCAL POLICE FORCES.

4. NETHERLANDS IS PARTY TO PROTOCOL TO AMEND SINGLE
CONVENTION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS OF 1961 BUT NOT CONVENTION

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ON PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES. DUTCH AUTHORITIES HAVE
COOPERATED IN EXTRADITION AND EXPULSION OF DRUG TRAF-
FICKERS WHEN REQUESTED. NETHERLANDS CONTRIBUTED TO UN
FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL IN 1972, BUT HAS NOT DONE
SO SINCE.

5. US PROGRAMS. TWO-MAN DEA OFFICE WAS ESTABLISHED
IN NETHERLANDS IN 1974. IN-COUNTRY TRAINING OF DUTCH
ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL CONDUCTED IN 1975 BY BOTH DEA AND
CUSTOMS AND IS SCHEDULED FOR FY-76. SUCH TRAINING HAS
BEEN WELCOMED AS PART OF AN OVERALL PROGRAM INVOLVING
THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON NARCOTICS CONTROL,
ORGANIZATIONAL METHODS, LEGISLATION AND TREATMENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NARCOTICS, DRUG CONTROL, REPORTS, DRUG TRAFFIC
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE029668
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CWSCHALLER/LD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770047-0099
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770257/aaaabyfu.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 19c618c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3360879
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NARCOTICS COUNTRY PAPER FOR NETHERLANDS
TAGS: SNAR, NL
To: THE HAGUE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/19c618c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009